1776

[redacted]

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores
P.O. 14020
St. Louis, MO 63178

Dear Mr. Newman,

Our mutual friend, Dr. Philip L. Mossman, suggested I write to you concerning the authentication of a continental dollar in my collection. I am a collector of states and early U.S. coinage and have also acquired, over the years, several counterfeits, restrikes, and copies in that same series.

At the end of a day-long project of measuring the specific gravity of a large group of English and Irish counterfeit coppers in Philip's collection, I was showing him my accumulation of counterfeits and restrikes. In particular I showed him what I considered an unusually fine counterfeit of a continental dollar that a person in a nearby town had sold me recently, finding it in a pile of sand fill she had delivered for her driveway. Philip felt this example was either genuine or such a good counterfeit that it should be documented.

This specimen weighs 260.2 grain and has a specific gravity of 10.04, both in the proper range for a true pewter example. The photos enclosed, which are terribly overexposed, show this "one R" slightly off center coin. The actual color is a dark slate gray, not the shiny effect my poor photo indicates. The surface is porous on a very fine scale except at the CONNEC, R ISLAND, and N.YORK rings on the reverse, which are pitted and dirty.

Any help you could give me would be greatly appreciated. I do not have a genuine example in my collection with which to compare, nor do I have a Dickeson or an Elder restrike from Dickeson dies. I do have a thick example, 424.1 grain, perhaps a centennial piece, which is a serious but very obvious copy.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Smith

Charles W. Smith

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

July 23, 1987

Mr. Charles W. Smith

[redacted]

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am glad to try to be of help with respect to the Continental Dollar which you have. The specific gravity of 10.04 is indicative of the fact that it is false as it is very much above the normal specific gravity of a coin chiefly made of tin. Your piece must have a high amount of lead. This is confirmed by the fact that there is a porous area which is the result of gas in the course of casting. Your piece probably has a plain edge rather than a decorated edge, as most castings have. There are large numbers of cast pieces.

I am very pleased that you are taking the specific gravity of a large group of English and Irish copper counterfeit coins in Phil's collection. I hope one of you will tell me what you find as most of the counterfeits that are struck will be of copper and therefore be between 8.3 and 8.9 specific gravity.

I am sure that the area in which you are interested is an exciting one as I have worked in it for over 60 years. I hope I have been helpful.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

DR. CHARLES W. SMITH
[illegible]
[illegible]

[redacted]

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

I very much enjoyed our phone conversation of two weeks ago about my project on contemporary counterfeit George III halfpennys. As you may know, I am looking at issues from a statistical point of view, involving production and distribution. It is always important to a study of this kind to have a large data base and your kind offer to allow me to borrow the Peck collection and other interesting examples from your collection is very much appreciated.

As I recall, we left the arrangements up to you as to what you would send and when. I'll be working closely with Phil Mossmann over the next few months as the statistical analysis evolves (his collection will be included) and as the manuscript takes shape. Phil is also quite interested in this project and, together with your generous offer, I'm sure this contribution to C.O.A.C. 1995 will be a valuable addition to the numismatic literature.

Best regards,

Charles

Charles W. Smith

[redacted]

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

Thank you for your kindness in taking the time to send corrections and suggested changes for my COAC manuscript. I am pleased that you enjoyed both the presentation and the paper.

As to the possible inclusion of the Batty Lists...I have copies of Batty's Catalogues and your inventory of them. I have given careful consideration to their possible inclusion in my paper. Although their historic importance is not in question (and, by the way, they are in general qualitative agreement with Table I), I feel they are flawed by potentially serious sampling bias problems. Just what pieces Batty chose to include in this commercial inventory and just what pieces remained in that inventory over time, bring into question their quantitative statistical rigor. The pieces actually listed are also only a subset (if we are to believe his numerical claims) of his total accumulation. Just how that subset was determined was never made clear. Thus I don't feel the Lists can be included in Table I on an equal footing with the other data. Table I without the Batty Lists is more than sufficient to establish the date distribution for the halfpenny series, 1770-1775. To include the Batty Lists, in my opinion, would require so many disclaimers, that it would possibly detract, in some readers' minds, from their historic importance without adding to the credibility of Table I. For these reasons I chose not to include the Batty Lists.

I plan to send my final draft to Phil next week. Your corrections and suggested changes have strengthened this final draft. Thank you again for your timely remarks.

Best Regards,

Charley

Charles W. Smith, Ph.D.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Charles W. Smith

[redacted]

Novemebr 13, 1995

Dear Skip:

I was in my basement looking ofr some coin pictures and I came across a box marked "ctf. ½ pence". It is marked "Develop before June 1968". It contains about 50 sharp negatives 4" X 5" with 6 to 9 coin faces on a negative. They are of my coins. I have no idea whether positives were made, but one was in the box.

I will be glad to lend these to you for study until you come to St. Louis in March 1996. If you want to work on these please let me know and I'll send them. If you want to have positive prints made please make an extra for us.

This was a lucky find. I have no recollection of taking the pictures but I was working on the topic at the time.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

cc: Phil Mossman

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Educational Society
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis MO 63105

27NOV95

Dear Eric,

Thank you for your letter of 13NOV95 and the kind offer to let me examine your recent find of counterfeit halfpence negatives. Yes, I would very much like the opportunity to study these images.

My current plans bring me to St. Louis for the American Physical Society Meeting , March 18-22. However , in order to save on airfare , I will arrive late March 16 . This leaves an unplanned day before the meeting begins , namely , Sunday March 17 . Perhaps we can plan to get together at that time , if it is convenient with your schedule .

I am currently working on two numismatic research projects : one involves a continuation of the application of statistical methods to the study of production errors in the British George III halfpenny series and the second is the elemental analysis project I mentioned at C.O.A.C. For the former I wish to carry out a detailed study of double strikes in the same way I studied brockages for my C.O.A.C. paper . Double strikes are more complicated to study than brockages (more statistical categories) but offer a greater potential for new informatoin regarding production technologies and practices. I will ideally need a database of 100-150 examples for this study . The second project involves elemental analysis techniques and extends beyond the counterfeit halfpenny series to include state coppers . It is substantially more complex than the statistical study since three universities are involved and four different analysis methods will be employed aand compared . I plan to persue these projects simultaneously (since neither requires the conclusions of the other) and expect results for the former in about a year or so , but the latter will require more time ; especially the analysis phase once the measurments are complete .

Probably one should never be bold enough to state a time line for a research project , but then again a deadline does tend to provide motivation . I look forward to the loan of the negatives .

Best regards ,

Charles

Charles W. Smith

cc: P.L.Mossman

On EPNNES letterhead

Charles W. Smith

[redacted]

December 1, 1995

Dear Charles:

Your new research goals sound great.

I enclose or send under separate cover the negatives I located and probably some positives.

You may if you wish spend Saturday night March 16th at our house. I would bring the counterfeits home and we could work on them Sunday. Do you need any special equipment ?

I hope it is not a problem for you to have prints made and to return the enclosed material in due course.

My best,

Eric P. Newman

[redacted]

December 9, 1995

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

The package of photo/negatives arrived safely. I have been so busy at the University that I haven't had time to acknowledge their receipt until now. We are coming up to the end of semester exam period and other academic deadlines, leaving little spare time.

The negatives appear to have good contrast and definition. My plan is to make twice size positives by first scanning the negative into a computer, inverting the contrast and printing times two positives. This is a very cost effective method and hopefully sufficient for our purposes. It is also easy to adjust contrast, vary brightness, and to print any number of copies using image analysis software. If this technique turns out to be unsatisfactory for any reason, I will have conventional contact prints made.

I'll keep you appraised of progress.

Best regards,

Charles

Charles W. Smith

[redacted]

[redacted]
March 26, 1996

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

Thank you for your warm hospitality Sunday last. I enjoyed our conversations and working with your fine collection of George III regal and counterfeit halfpence. I was also pleased to have the opportunity to meet Peter Gaspar, having read and admired his contributions to issues of metallurgy in numismatics.

I appreciate your prompt comments and corrections to my recent manuscript. I will incorporate them, along with some observations made by Phil Mossman and submit it to CNL this spring. I am considering adding an appendix with nine or so error illustrations and a discussion of their analysis. Jim Spillman suggested I might present the error illustrations as an exercise in the primary article with a short follow-up article analyzing each example. Hopefully, this will encourage those curious about the proposed coin error classification system to try it out.

Please thank your wife again on my behalf for lunch and her kind support of my visit.

Best regards,

Charles W. Smith

Sept 17-1974.

Mr. Newman:

The Numismatic Society of New York gave me your name as I have had some correspondence with them about a revolutionary coin that I own and wish to determine what its value might be as I wish to sell it.

I am a Senior Citizen and have no car so it would be difficult for me to meet you near your home. Would ask if it would be convenient for you to meet me at the Forest Park Hotel Lobby? The Hotel is on West Pine just off Euclid.

Will show you the coin and tell you its history as I know it. It is quite beat up having laid in the ground for about 145 years. I have had it over fifty.

Would appreciate

you calling me and see when we could meet.

My phone number is [redacted] I am usually in between twelve and two thirty.

Thank you,

Edna Smith

[redacted]

63108 Mo-

Examined
9/19/74
Geo II ctf $\frac{1}{2}$ l
date unreadable
legends generally
unreadable.

world coin news
[redacted] IOLA, WIS. 54945

Bruce Smith
Box 57
Iola, Wisc.
54945

Recd 12/3/75

Dear Eric,

Having failed to get you (or Ron Horstman) interested in a series of articles on Missouri notes, I wonder if I can ask something else of you.

Would you loan us notes from your collection so that we may photograph them ? I have decided to go ahead and write a series of articles myself, but the only notes I have are a few of the Southern States issues. I would like to borrow any obsolete notes or warrants from Missouri, particularly St. Louis. We will reimburse you for postage and insurance, and in addition we will give you: 1) credit for the photo, and 2) a nice print of each photo. The photographs, of course, will come in handy when it comes time to put out your book on Missouri notes. As you probably know, we have one of the best numismatic photographers in the business, Dave Heise. Dave recently taught a class in numismatic photography at ANA headquarters in Colorado Springs.

Second, I wonder if you could give me a bibliography on Missouri notes. Have any Missouri banks (other than Boatman's)

published a history ? In exchange for this information, I will, of course, send you a list of any sources I discover.

A couple weekends ago I was in St. Louis for the Foreign Coin Show out at Holiday Inn. I visited one of my favorite haunts, Aamitin's Bookshop downtown, and picked up a set of Stevens' Centennial History of Missouri, 1921 four volumes. This has a chapter on banks in Missouri and pictures of some early bankers. The last two volumes are biographical, and contain much on bankers. There is also a 1971 reprint (by Larry Hagan) of an 1874 book on St. Louis, the name of which escapes me, Anyway, this too has a section on banks, but you are probably familiar with it.

I have also discovered that the University of Wisconsin -- Stevens Point campus, which is not too far distant, has the U.S. Comptroller's Reports, which will be useful for the national banks in Missouri. They also have various (annual ?) reports on banks, state by state, from about 1832 to 1860. This is contained in the House Report.

Finally, I wonder if I might borrow some banknote reporters which have information on Missouri banks. I understand that at least four of these were published in St. Louis. If it is more convenient, perhaps you could simply send me xeroxes of the relevant sections.

All for now. Best wishes for the holiday season. If you ever get up our way, don't hesitate to stop by and say hello.

Regards,

Bruce

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 4, 1975

Mr. Bruce Smith
P. O. Box 57
Iola, Wisconsin 54945

Dear Bruce:

Onething which I do not like to do is to turn down a request for numismatic information which I have available. I have devoted years to helping others whenever possible. In your request for pictures and bibliography you have asked for material which I personally intend to write up. I have worked on this subject for over 25 years and Ron Horstman has been working with me for several recent years. I, therefore, do not feel justified in turning over any part of this material for publication to anyone.

This has nothing to do with you personally and nothing to do with the organization you represent. It is just a natural protection of a writing project which I am undertaking.

This does not stop you, however, from writing or publishing anything you wish and from obtaining information from any other source. There is just a conflict of interest with me as a source and it should not affect your enthusiasm.

As to any other material that is not the subject of a writing project I am undertaking, I would be delighted to be of assistance to you. I certainly hope you understand the basis of my thinking which was to some extent indicated in my last letter to you.

My kindest regards to you and your gang.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

Krause Publications, Inc.

From the Coin Collectors' Capital

Iola, Wisconsin 54945 Tel. 715-445-2217

Bruce Smith
Box 57
Iola, Wisc.
54945

Dear Eric,

Thank you for your prompt response to my last letter.

I understand entirely your feelings on the matter of the bibliography. Frankly, your reply is just what I expected. I do hope, however, that your book on Missouri paper money will appear before too very long.

My own goal is write a series of articles, which may ultimately lead to a book, covering not only obsolete notes, but " Southern States " notes, scrip, railroad notes, nationals and Federal Reserve Notes of Missouri. Though I started with zero knowledge of the subject, I've found a surprising lot of reference material here in Wisconsin and have leads on many more. Wish that I had the time to pursue the matter better.

I will be looking foreward to your book.

Best wishes for the holidays,

Bruce Smith

Bruce W. Smith

To Epn

Date 5-18 Time 9:14

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Ron Horstman

of

Phone

Telephoned	✓	Please Return Call	✓
Called To See You		Will Call Again	
Wanted To See You		Returned Your Call	

Message Bruce Smith
Box 7201
Ft. Wayne Ind.
46807

OPERATOR

F. 68

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

April 2, 1980

Mr. Bruce Smith
Box 7201
Fort Wayne, IN 46807

Dear Bruce:

Thank you for those copies of the check list containing your Missouri bank listing. It was an enormous project which you undertook. I look forward to its completion. What a mass of unknown still remains to piece together. It makes one feel truly challenged.

You must have enjoyed reading the many Missouri County Atlases. I think the woodcuts in them are fascinating and amazing examples of the architecture of banks, forms, etc.

I did receive two copies of the Oct.-Dec. 1979 issue. Should I have received a Jan.-March 1980 number?

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah